

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) Connector for a sealed connection of a flat cable arrangement, comprising:

an external housing, which even in an unassembled condition of the connector and a flat cable arrangement has an insertion opening which is adapted for the insertion of the end of a flat cable arrangement in order to effect electrical connection at a connection area of the insertion opening,

at least ~~one~~ two sealing elements comprising compressed gel being arranged at the connection area of the insertion opening for the end of a flat cable arrangement in such a way that ~~it~~ they only ~~comes~~ come into effective contact with the flat cable arrangement when the flat cable arrangement is in an inserted condition; ~~and~~

a pressurization device with which said two sealing elements can be moved in a pincer-like movement in direction of an upper and a lower side of the flat cable arrangement into a position essentially closing the insertion opening for the pressurization of the at least one sealing element for sealing at least the connection area when the flat cable arrangement is in an inserted condition; and

guidance devices that extend along a side of the insertion opening in the insertion direction of the flat cable arrangement diagonally from above and below the flat cable arrangement in direction to the flat cable arrangement for the simultaneous guidance of the pressurization device in a normal direction in relation to the flat cable device as well as in an axial direction in relation to the flat cable arrangement.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) Connector according to claim 1, in addition characterized in that the flat cable arrangement comprises a flex foil, a flat ribbon cable, a flexible printed circuit, an extruded cable or a laminated cable.

4. (Previously Amended) Connector according to claim 1, in addition characterized by, terminal contacts and/or terminal position assurance means arranged at the connection area of the connector for interacting with terminals attached to the conductor ends of the flat cable arrangement.

5. (Original) Connector according to claim 1, in addition characterized by the gel being a silicon gel or an elastomer based on gel.

6. (Original) Connector according to claim 1, in addition characterized by the gel being a dielectric.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) Connector according to claim 7 1, characterized by catching or snapping means associated to the pressurization device at least for the fixation of the pressurization device in the position essentially closing the insertion opening.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) Connector ~~according to claim 1, in addition characterized by a pressurization device with~~ for a sealed connection of a flat cable arrangement, comprising:
an external housing which even in an unassembled condition of the connector and a flat cable arrangement has an insertion opening which is adapted for the insertion of the end of a flat cable arrangement in order to effect electrical connection at a connection area of the insertion opening,

at least one sealing element comprising compressed gel being arranged at the connection area of the insertion opening for the end of a flat cable arrangement in such a way that it only comes into effective contact with the flat cable arrangement when the flat cable arrangement is in an inserted condition;

a pressurization device for the pressurization of the at least one sealing element for sealing at least the connection area when the flat cable arrangement is in an inserted condition;
and guidance and catching devices assigned associated with said pressurization device to guide it
~~the pressurization device~~, first in a normal direction in relation to the flat cable arrangement at the connection area and then in an axial direction in relation to the flat cable arrangement at the connection area or vice versa.

12. (Original) Connector according to claim 11, in addition characterized in the flat cable arrangement in fully assembled state projecting out of the connector housing in relation to the insertion direction of the flat cable arrangement at an angle, preferably in essence of 0°, +90° or -90°.

13. (Previously Amended) Connector according to claim 1, in addition characterized by sealing elements and a pressurization device that can be inserted after the flat cable arrangement has been inserted in the insertion opening.

14. (Previously Amended) Connector according to claim 13, with the pressurization device in addition having a slot essentially corresponding to the cross-section of the flat cable arrangement and through which the flat cable arrangement is guided.

15. (Original) Connector according to claim 1, in addition characterized in the pressurization device comprising a connector housing cover for closing the insertion opening.

16. (Currently Amended) Connector according to claim + 11, characterized by a ~~trough~~ through hole leading outwards through the connector housing at the point of at least one of said sealing elements comprising compressed gel.

17. (Previously Amended) Connector according to claim 1, in addition comprising a jacket or plug connector end for connecting a counter connector essentially opposite the insertion opening.

18. (Previously Canceled)
19. (Previously Canceled)
20. (Currently Amended) Connector according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said compressed gel is in the form of a pillow or cushion as a sealing element.